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LB 1085

I would like to ask Senator Wickersham a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Maybe two. Senator Wickersham, you voted...how did you vote for the income tax increase this morning?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: We haven't...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I mean the cigarette...the cigarette tax increase.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I voted against the 30-cent increase.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And on Senator Don Pederson's amendment, how will you vote on that, to put the half-cent sales tax on?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I'm going to vote against that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if our colleagues, being whipped on the one side by the Governor and lashed on the other by business, will put that half percent sales tax on your bill, I'm not going to ask you to expose your hand, but are there things that you, as the introducer of that bill, could do?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, I could...it's a Revenue Committee bill. I have been trying to think over the weekend whether we could remove that designation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That's all that I will ask you. Members of the Legislature, there is a reality that should be faced by all of us who are here. When those individuals in the Rotunda drag you out there and you shamelessly go running and lick their spittle, they feel pretty good because they control you. They make you think that what they're saying is the only thing in the world, and if you react and respond to that you will abdicate the responsibility that we have as legislators to fashion a plan that will address the revenue shortfall that the state is facing. The issue is not complicated. What we need to do is not complicated. The only thing that brings about a